

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 /101 W

----- 035528

R 110450 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

INFO CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN KILLED IN ICCS HELICOPTER LOSS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. CH USDEL FPJMT SAIGON 091215 Z APR 73

B. STATE 065566/092209 Z APR 73 (NOTAL)

1. AIR AMERICA SAIGON TELLS US THAT THEY NOTIFIED AIR AMERICA WASHINGTON OFFICE ON APRIL 8 NAMES OF NEXT OF KIN OF TWO DECEASED AMERICANS WHO DIED IN APRIL 7 ICCS HELICOPTER LOSS, CHARLES LEROY OSTERMAN AND TERRY DEAN CLARK. AIR AMERICA'S ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE IS FOR NEXT OF KIN TO BE NOTIFIED BY AIR AMERICA WASHINGTON OFFICE, WHICH WE ASSUME HAS BEEN DONE.

2. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NEXT OF KIN FOLLOW:

J. H. OSTERMAN (BROTHER)

16545 APPLE STREET

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92708

(TELEPHONE 839-5911)

GABRIELE CLARK (WIFE)

38867 OCOTILLO DRIVE

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PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA
(TELEPHONE 805-273-0960)

3. AS REPORTED IN PARAS 1 AND 2 (C) OF REF A, MAJOR GENERAL HOANG ANH TUAN, ACTING CHIEF OF PRG DELEGATION TO FPJMC, EXPRESSED TO CHIEF OF US DEL, FPJMT- MIA, HIS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF AMERICAN CREW MEMBERS OF ICCS HELICOPTER WITH REQUEST THAT U. S. AUTHORITIES " CONVEY THESE CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED." DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FORWARDING THIS MESSAGE THROUGH AIR AMERICA WASHINGTON OFFICE TO NEXT OF KIN.

4. ON OTHER HAND, VERSION OF EVENTS INVOLVING SHOOTING DOWN OF ICCS HELICOPTER, AS EXPRESSED BY MG TUAN AND OTHER PRG SPOKESMEN, APPEARS TO CONTAIN NUMEROUS MIS- STATEMENTS OF FACT WHICH WILL QUICKLY BECOME APPARENT TO PUBLIC. WHOLE INCIDENT IS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY ICCS.

5. WE NOTE THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON APRIL 9 (REF B) REFERRED TO INCIDENT AS QTE TOTALLY CALLOUS FLOUTING OF PEACE AGREEMENT BY COMMUNIST PARTIES TO THAT AGREEMENT END QTE, WHILE MG MCALPINE, CHIEF OF CANADIAN MILITARY DELEGATION TO ICCS, STATED IN SAIGON APRIL 9, IN REPLY TO QUESTION WHETHER SHOOT- DOWN WAS ACCIDENT, QTE AN ACCIDENT* SURELY, WITH EVERYONE IN THE AREA KNOWING THIS WAS AN APPROVED FLIGHT AND WITH THE VERBATIM REPORTS OF THE SURVIVORS, I THINK OTHERWISE. END QTE.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEND THE FAMILIES OF OSTERMAN AND CLARK THE CONDOLENCES OF THE USG, MAKING NO MENTION OF THE " CONDOLENCES" OF THE PRG, WHICH SEEM CLEARLY INTENDED TO MASK PRG RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHOOTING DOWN THE ICCS HELICOPTER. ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THE FAMILIES BE ASSURED THAT THE TWO PILOTS DID THEIR UTMOST TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THEIR PASSENGERS AND THAT, ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT, THE TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY COMMUNIST MISSILE FIRED IN VIOLATION OF CEASE- FIRE AND IN VIOLATION OF PRG' S OWN ASSURANCES THAT THE FLIGHT WOULD BE UNMOLESTED.

WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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